COALITION VOTER PROJECT

MEMBERSHIP*100*

VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM

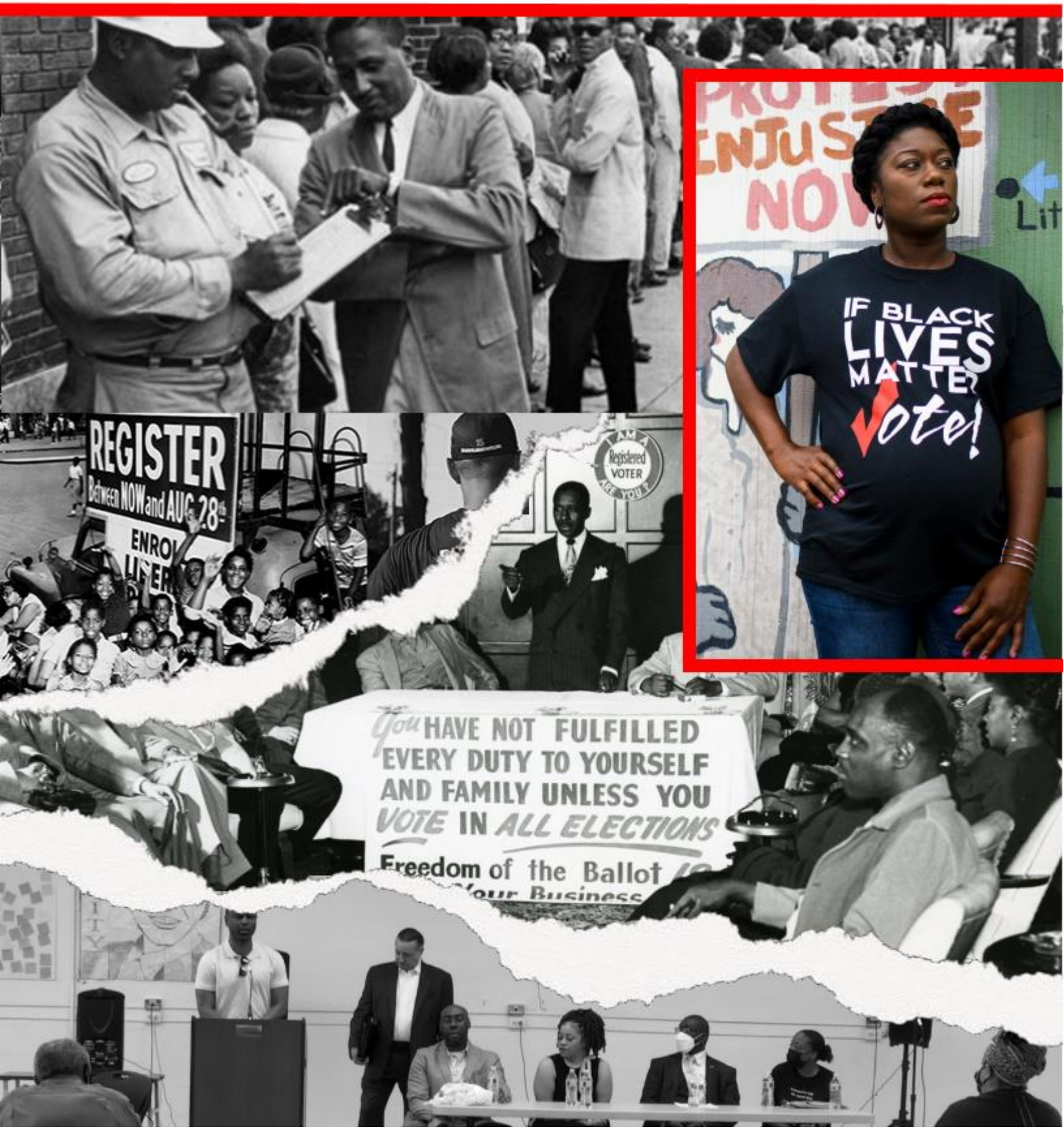


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COALITION VOTER PROJECT

We, as a group of concerned, committed and determined community organizations have launched a major voter registration, education, engagement and mobilization initiative, the ***Coalition Voter Project***.

The *Coalition Voter Project* believes in the importance of our hard-won right to vote, that voting is our voice, and that our collective voice, when voiced effectively and in large numbers, represents power;

This power is required to make change happen; to hold our elected representatives accountable, to influence policy, funding, investments and the provision of services; power to vote in the right folk and to boot out those that do not or will not represent the best interests of black people.

Voting is the heart of democracy and the core of a representative form of government.

Recognizing that the black community must increase and, in turn, exercise its political strength in order to hold our elected and appointed representatives accountable, elect and re-elect those that will deliver for the black community, and importantly, remove from office ineffective office holders who cannot or will not focus on and deliver results for the black community, the Coalition Voter Project will work to register, educate, engage, organize and mobilize the Black community towards the goal of showing up and showing out at every election.

The goal is straightforward:
the black community must be

- Registered to vote, at the highest levels, across all age groups, everywhere we live;
- Knowledgeable - civically, politically and on the issues;
- Engaged – touched where they are, in-person, on-line, via all communication channels
- Organized – networked and prepared for response / action; and
- Mobilized to vote at the highest levels, across all age groups, everywhere we live from the first day of early voting, through to the end of day on election day.

The challenge is great:
Therefor we must

- Plan;
- Execute;
- Monitor, Adjust; and
- Achieve results, meeting or exceeding our goals.

We must be intentional.

The Coalition Voter Project, along with similar initiatives across our community, will succeed.

MEMBERSHIP100 VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM

The *Coalition Voter Project* presents the **Membership100 Voter Registration Program**. The goal of this program is for participating organizations to commit to working to get 100% of its members to ensure that every person in their immediate family, 18 years and older, is registered to vote.

To restate this, the participating organization's charge is to 1) have all of its members registered to vote and 2) to encourage each member to be responsible for their respective immediate family.

This program further asks that organizations and groups work collectively to understand the issues and to commit to take action to make things better for the community. **To register to vote*, then vote*.**

An organization can be any grouping of individuals wishing to do its part in empowering our community: a civic organization, social club, professional association, faith-based entity, fraternity, sorority, sports team, school class, non-profit board, mason's lodge, book club, bowling league, steppers group, …

We believe this program to be very doable because it simply asks that each individual be responsible for their family in getting the family fully registered.

MEMBERSHIP100 PROCESS

1. An *organization or group commits to launch a Member100 voter registration program, with a fixed time frame for completing the effort, establishing a start and end date;

   *This requires that one or more individuals take the initiative on behalf of the organization or group to get buy-in to launch the program or begin the effort; a lead person s/b named;

2. The organization or group' lead person receives its Toolkit;

3. The organization or group communicates to its members, articulating the importance of voting and, if required, highlighting issues of importance to its members to encourage participation;

4. Each organization or group *member* pledges* to ensure that every one of their immediate family members, ,18 years of age and older, are registered to vote by the target date; (see IMMEDIATE FAMILY – A VISUAL DEFINITION)

   *Member pledges should be received via a positive action, such as an email or voiced acknowledgement, to demonstrate commitment, and recorded/tracked by the lead person

5. Organization or group member engages with their family members to validate that the family member is registered to vote, and if not, works with the family member to get registered. (see **Ways to Register to Vote**);

6. The organization or group lead will track the progress of each member and assist if necessary (send reminders if a member isn't providing updates or reporting completion and/or provide information if a member's family has questions or needs encouragement to register);

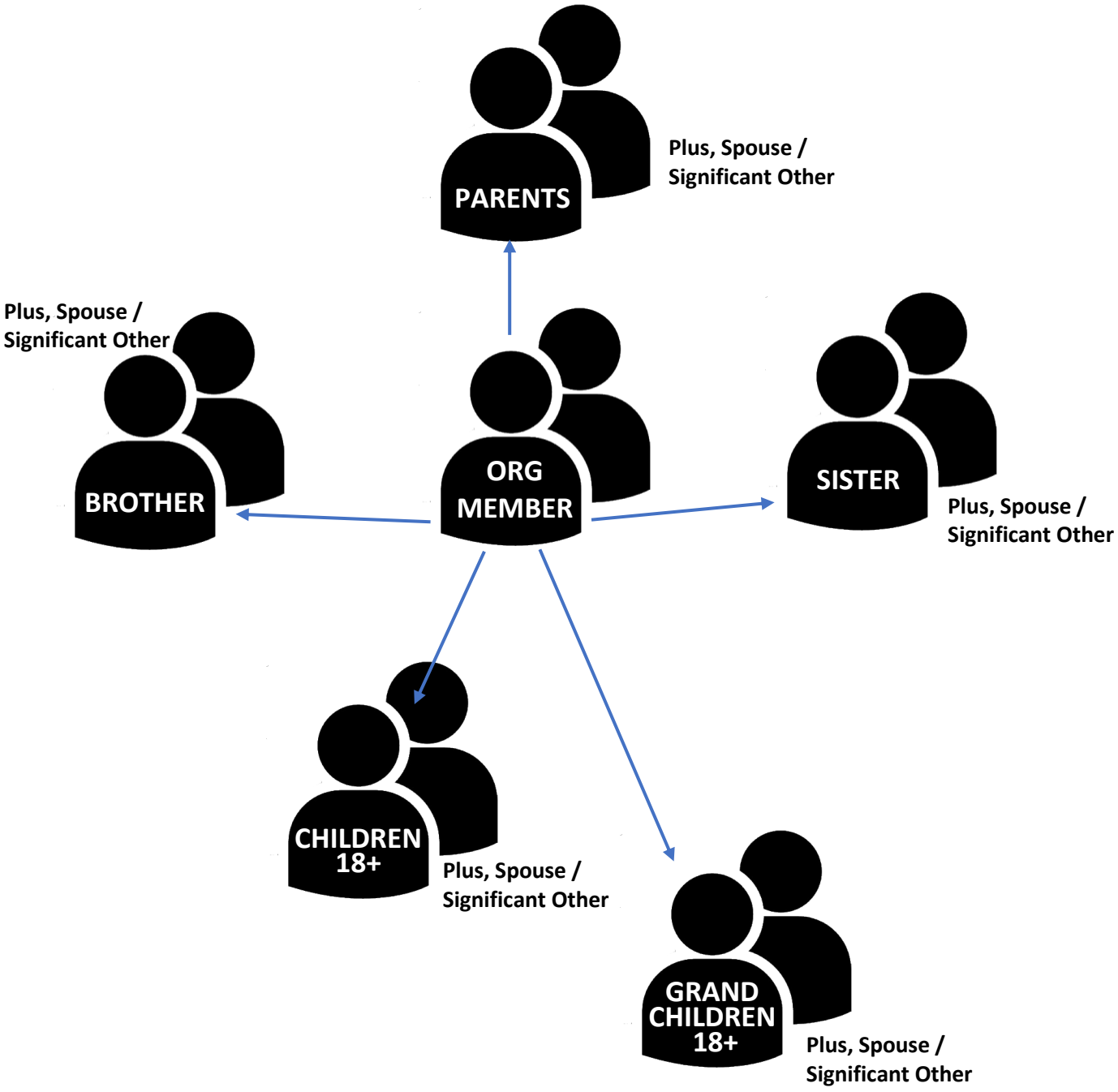
7. Organization or group lead reports on achieving its goal of 100% member / member family registration;

8. Organization or group receives recognition! All members / member families *vote*!

The Automated Process

The above process steps are currently being automated (online sign-up and tracking). For some organizations, this will be a preferred method for members to pledge and to track progress. **Importantly, the automated process will be the means by which we expand Membership100 city, county and statewide.**

IMMEDIATE FAMILY – A VISUAL DEFINITION



Each organization or group member, taking the pledge, will ensure that their parents, children, grandchildren and siblings, along with significant others, as applicable, are registered to vote.

MEMBERSHIP100 TOOLKIT



- Template – Member Introductory and Pledge Solicitation Letter
- Template – (less formal) Member Introductory and Pledge Solicitation Email
- Template – Member Registration Tracking
- Ways an individual can Register to Vote
- Voter Registration QR Code Cards

Template – Member Introductory and Pledge Solicitation Letter

To be placed on organization's stationary and distributed to each member at program launch

[Date]

Coalition Voter Project - *MEMBERSHIP100*

Dear [Organization Name] Member:

[Organization Name] has joined a coalition of organizations to promote voter registration, education and engagement.

Most of us would acknowledge the importance of our hard-won right to vote, that voting is our voice, and that our collective voice, when voiced effectively and in large numbers, represents power. This power is required to make change happen; to hold our elected representatives accountable, to influence policy, funding, investments and the provision of services; power to vote in the right folk and to boot out those that do not or will not represent the best interests of black people.

Collectively, the coalition recognizes that voter apathy must be mitigated if we are to maximize our collective political strength. This mitigation starts now with an aggressive voter registration drive.

[Organization name] has partnered on the development of a voter registration campaign called *Membership 100*. The goal of Membership 100 is for each participating organization to achieve 100% of its members and their immediate family being registered to vote.

[Organization name] has made this commitment and is launching campaign Membership 100. We are asking each member to pledge to take steps to register every family member, 18 years and older. We are asking to receive your pledge by [date] and to have all family members registered to vote by [date]. Additional detail, on the ways you and your family can register to vote, is attached.

Please acknowledge your pledge, as well as direct any questions to [name, cell, email address].

In the proud tradition of [Organization name], we will accomplish this important goal, thereby doing our part to support our community and importantly, providing leadership by example.

Respectfully,
[Name, title]

Template – (less formal) Member Introductory and Pledge Solicitation Email

Subject: **Coalition Voter Project - *MEMBERSHIP100***

Club Members [or use names]

I'd like for us to join the movement to get our community registered to vote and to use our vote to change things for the better for our community.

We should agree that we've fought hard for the right to vote, that voting is our voice, and that if we vote together and in large numbers it represents power. This power is required to make change happen; to hold our elected representatives accountable, to influence policy, funding, investments and the provision of services; power to vote in the right folk and to boot out those that do not or will not represent the best interests of black people.

I'm asking that [organization or group name] commit to the Membership100 Voter Registration program, started by the Coalition Voter Project. The goal of Membership100 is for us to have every single one of our members and their immediate family registered to vote. In other words, each of us will pledge to get every one of our immediate family, 18 years of age and older, registered to vote.

Please reply to this email if you think we should join the movement and I will schedule a meeting for us to discuss in detail.

I know we all care about the community and the need to fix the issues like improving education, better paying jobs, growing Black businesses, and safer streets [use issues important to your members]. I know we want to replace the in-effective politicians with better folk able to deliver for us, so let's do our part.

Please respond to this email by [date].

We can do this.

[Member Name]

Template – Member Pledge and Progress Tracking

Representation of Excel spreadsheet. Download **here**:

Membership 100 Tracking and Reporting Worksheet - Status Date:

Member								
Last Name	First Name	Email	Pledge Y/N	# Family	# Registered	% Registered	Completed	Comments
Smith	John	jsmith@gmail.com	Y	5	5	100%	X	
Total Members		1						
Total Completed		1						
Completion %		100%						

Ways an individual can Register to Vote (or re-register after a change of address):

1) **ONLINE - An individual can register online at** Illinois Online Voter Registration Application using their IL driver's license or state ID card; the individual can additionally change their name or address on their voting card. One can go to the link on a laptop or tablet, or **an individual can scan a Registration QR Card** with a smartphone to access the application:





Note: An individual may register online at their new address using an IL state ID and/or IL driver's license that still has their old address.

2) **MAIL-IN – An individual can register by mail** using the attached form. Using this downloadable form, a person fills in the form, signs and mails it in.
Note: a) The form can be downloaded here: **city of chicago application**, and **cook county application**
b) As opposed to mailing, the application can be dropped off at the Board of Elections office.
c) For the **June 28th Election,** the deadline for a mail-in form is Tue., May 31, 2022.

3) **IN-PERSON – An individual can register in person** at the *Chicago Board of Elections* (69 West Washington Street, Suites 600/800, Chicago, Illinois), or **One of the Cook County Clerk's six locations**, or at an *Illinois Secretary of State facility*, if also obtaining a driver's license or state ID during their visit. Find a facility here: **https://apps.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facility**.

4) **Automatic Voter Registration -** if you get a Real ID with the state, you will automatically be registered to vote unless you decide to opt-out. Additionally, when applying for or renewing your driver's license or identification card at a Secretary of State facility, you will be asked if you want to register to vote. You will be provided a receipt of voter registration application.

After a registration form is processed, the Election Board will mail a new voter card.

Additionally;

5) **IN-PERSON at Early Voting sites and on ELECTION DAY at your polling place.**

Qualifications to Register to Vote

- be a U.S. citizen, and
- be 18 years old (by Nov 8th of this year) or older, and
- live in your precinct at least 30 days before the election, and
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere; and
- not be in prison/jail serving time for a conviction.
  Note: Ex-convicts who have been released from prison/jail and who meet all other requirements listed above are eligible to register and vote in Illinois. Ex-convicts who have been released and are on parole/probation ARE eligible to register and vote in Illinois.

Voter Registration Status

If an individual does not know if they are currently registered to vote, voter registration status can be checked here**: https://www.chicagoelections.gov/en/your-voter-information.html or https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/elections/your-voter-information**

Voter Registration QR Code Cards





CONTACTS and OTHER INFORMATION

- Please email publicpolicy@coalchicago.com with questions and/or comments.

- Should your organization or group wish to commit to a Membership100 voter registration program, feel free to acknowledge via email at publicpolicy@coalchicago.com or leave a message at CONTACT - Coalition of African American Leaders (coalchicago.com).

- Should your organization or group wish to report progress or successful completion of 100% of its members completing the task of fully registering their families, feel free to email at publicpolicy@coalchicago.com or leave a message at CONTACT - Coalition of African American Leaders (coalchicago.com).

- **However**, if your organization chooses to proceed privately, that is OK too; the goal is a fully registered community that once registered, also votes, at every election.

- October 23, 2022 is the last day to get registered online for the November 8th Mid-Term Election, however, you can still register in-person at your polling place and vote.

- The Membership100 Voter Registration Program does not end. Immediately following November 8th, we prepare for the February 2023 Municipal election.